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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /139 W
---------- 032735
R 141015Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6818
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0948

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS: PASHTUNISTAN

REF: (A) KABUL 888; (B) KABUL 913

SUMMARY: DURING COURSE LEWIS' FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER NAIM, I MENTIONED MY IMPRESSION GOP PLEASED WITH KABUL VISIT AZIZ AHMED. NAIM DOWNPLAYED SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT AND REITERATED NEED FOR GOP GRANT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS TO PASHTUNS AND BALUCHIS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE, BUT NOT OPTIMISM, THAT EAST PAKISTAN EXPERIENCE WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. NAIM REVEALED LITTLE INTEREST IN LAHORE ISLAMI C
CONFERENCE BUT SAID GOA WOULD ATTEND AND SUPPORT CAUSE OF ARAB PEOPLES. GOA UNDOUBTEDLY ATTENDING (A) IN HOPES OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR ITSELF AND ITS POLICIES AND (B) IN ORDER MITIGATE ANY DOMESTIC CRITICISM THAT NON-PARTICIPATION IN ISLAMIC MEETING COULD EVOKE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GOA WILL RAISE PASHTUNISTAN OFFICIALLY AT
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MEETING, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT STRONG CORRIDOR LOBBYING BY AFGHAN

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DELEGATION. ACTION REQUESTED: NONE. END SUMMARY.

1. I TOOK DCM LEWIS TO MAKE FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, MOHAMMAD NAIM, FEBRUARY 13. I PASSED ON AMBASSADOR BYROADE'S REGARDS AS AGREED BETWEEN ME AND BYROADE, WHICH VERY MUCH PLEASED NAIM. I THEN TOOK OCCASION TO PASS ON IMPRESSION I HAD RECEIVED ON MY

RECENT VISIT TO ISLAMABAD THAT GOP WAS PLEASED WITH ATMOSPHERE AND HOSPITALITY CONNECTED WITH AZIZ AHMED'S VISIT LAST WEEK TO KABUL.

2. NAIM SMILED BUT MADE POINT THAT NOTHING MUCH WAS SAID DURING VISIT CONCERNING MAJOR PROBLEM BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD HAD "GIVEN AZIZ AHMED OUR VIEWS," BUT THAT AZIZ HAD MADE NO RESPONDE. HE ALSO ADDED WRYLY THAT BHUTTO HAD JUST JAILED AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF POLITICAL FIGURES WHICH COULD ONLY FURTHER COMPLICATE HIS, BHUTTO'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN.

3. NAIM REPLAYED AT SOME LENGTH AFGHAN VIEWS ON PASHTUNISTAN PROBLEM, EMPHASIZING SEVERAL TIMES THAT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE WAS ONLY THAT GOP REACH "AN UNDERSTANDING" WITH ITS PASHTUN POPULATION, CONSISTENT WITH PAKISTANI CONSTITUTION, IN ORDER THAT AN ATMOSPHERE COULD BE CREATED WITHIN PAKISTAN WHICH WOULD ALSO LEAD TO A FAVORABLE NEW ATMOSPHERE AND STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN.

4. RESPONDING TO MY EXPRESSION OF PLEASURE THAT GOA PLANS TO SEND DELEGATION TO LAHORE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, NAIM SAID THAT HE SAW NO POINT IN THE CONFERENCE WHICH WAS ONLY DESIGNED AS A PROPAGANDA PLATFORM FOR BHUTTO. NONETHELESS, AN AFGHAN DELEGATION WOULD, OF COURSE, ATTEND AND WOULD SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF THE ARAB PEOPLES. BUT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF WHAT HE CHARACTERIZES AS "AN EMPTY CONFERENCE."

5. BEFORE PASSING ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS, NAIM SAID AGAIN THAT HE HOPED PAKISTANIS WOULD EVENTUALLY RECOGNIZE FACT THAT GULF BETWEEN GO
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AND PASHTUN AND BALUCHI DISSIDENTS IS STEADILY WIDENING.
HE DREW PARALLEL TO EARLIER PHASE OF EAST PAKISTAN DISSIDENCE, SAYING THAT GULF COULD READILY HAVE BEEN BRIDGED BEFORE IT BECAME CONFIDENTIAL

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UNBRIDGEABLE, HAD GOP ACTED DIFFERENTLY TO CONCILIATE EAST PAKISTANIS. HE HOPED THAT GOP WOULD NOT MAKE SAME TRAGIC MISTAKE AGAIN. HE CONCLUDED THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO ASK OF PAKISTAN IF ONLY PASHTUNS AND BALUCHIS WERE PERMITTED THE RIGHTS THEY HAVE BEEN GUARANTEED UNDER PAKISTAN'S CONSTITUTION. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THIS HAPPENING, AND HE ADDED THAT IF IT DID NOT HAPPEN, AFGHANISTAN COULD NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT.

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6. COMMENT: REGARDING ISLAMIC SUMMIT, IT IS INTERESTING THAT DESPITE AFGHAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SUMMIT AS REPEATED IN THIS CONVERSATION BY NAIM AND DESPITE PAK UPSTAGING OF AFGHAN DESIRE HOST SPRING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING (SEPTEL), AFGHANISTAN IS SENDING A DELEGATION TO LAHORE. ONE REASON FOR AFGHAN DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IS TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY WIN FAVOR FOR DAOUD REGIME AND ITS POLICIES AMONG OTHER ISLAMIC STATES. WE DOUBT, AND PRESENCE OF GHAUS IN AFGHAN

DELEGATION SUPPORTS THIS THEORY, THAT AFGHANIS WILL MAKE PUBLIC FUSS IN LAHORE ABOUT PASHTUNISTAN, UNLESS OF COURSE BHUTTO PROVOKES THEM. BUT THEY WILL CERTAINLY USE CORRIDORS TO LOBBY FOR THEIR PASHTUNISTAN VIEW. A SECOND REASON FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IS THAT NON-PARTICIPATION WOULD GIVE RISE TO ANTI-REGIME PROPAGANDA FROM AMONG THOSE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS OF THE POPULATION, WHICH REMAIN POWERFUL AND WHICH ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE REGIME'S LEFTIST TINGE WHICH THEY EQUATE WITH AN ANTI-ISLAMIC ORIENTATION.
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